



Big Pond Unit Permit Waterfowl Hunt Regulations *San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge*

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Reservations

The Big Pond Unit (2500-acres) of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge will be open each Sunday during the second half of the waterfowl hunt season.

Reservations by phone will be taken for the hunt beginning the third Monday in November. Calls are accepted from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday throughout the season. The telephone number is 979/849-6062.

One person serving as group leader can make reservations for a party of 2 to 4 hunters. Hunters can only make one reservation per season as a group leader, but they can hunt with other group leaders as often as desired.

Group leaders may request a specific hunt location if it is still available. Hunters may come for standby permit opportunities as often as they wish. We will attempt to put single hunters with other parties for safety reasons.

Blinds

Five blinds are available, two on Big Pond, two on Blue Pond, and one at Camp Pond. Hunters must remain within 100 feet of the blind during the duration of their hunt, unless retrieving downed waterfowl.

Check-In

Hunters must report to the Big Pond Unit Check Station off FM 1301 west of Danciger 1 hour before legal shooting time. The check station and entrance gate will be open 1-1/2 hours before shooting time.

Check-in and check-out is required for all hunters.

A \$15.00 per person fee will be collected the morning of the hunt. The fee receipt will serve as the refuge permit. Hunters with Golden Age and Access Passports will receive a 50% discount on the hunt fee. Hunters 15 years of age and under may hunt free of charge. A season pass for \$35.00 can be purchased the morning of the hunt. This pass may be used for additional permit hunts at Sargent and Big Pond during the 2003/2004 regular waterfowl season.

No guests or observers will be allowed.

Hunt Regulations

Safety must be the first consideration of each hunter. Guns must remain unloaded to and from the blind. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the Refuge.

Hunters are required to walk from the designated parking areas to their blind. The trails to the hunt areas are marked with reflectors. A good flashlight and hip boots are a must.

All hunters must cease hunting at 11:00 am, and return to the hunt check station by 12:30 pm for completion of hunter questionnaires. Hunters may leave before that time if desired.

Hunters must pick up and carry out their empty shells and trash. Birds may not be cleaned on the refuge.

Other Information

Decoys are not provided. The use of retriever dogs is permitted but dogs must be controlled to avoid interference with other hunters.

Only ducks, geese, and coots may be hunted. All other wildlife, including poisonous snakes, is protected. If a snake is encountered it should be left alone unless it is within your hunting blind, use a stick to encourage it to leave. Do not kill it!

For Further Information

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979/849-6062
979/849-5118 fax
<http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/texasmidcoast/index.html>
www.refugefriends.org